



Inside Ag *July 2009*

Bug of the Month **Lesser Knapweed Flower Weevil, *Larinus minutus***



Diffuse knapweed is a non native weed that has spread throughout Colorado but is especially dense in the range lands, pastures, parks and open spaces between Fort Collins and Colorado Springs. The plants have a biennial life cycle and spread through seeds; a single plant may produce many thousands of them.

The lesser knapweed flower weevil, *Larinus minutus*, has been a very effective biocontrol for diffuse knapweed. Dense stands of the weed have been brought under control in the past few years, primarily as a result of the weevils which feed as larvae on the flowers and developing seeds, and as adults on both flowers and foliage. The beetle spends the winter in the adult stage and lays eggs on the developing flower buds in the late spring.